

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5680

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, LU  
SUBJ: LUXEMBOURG FORCES FOR NATO

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE ASSESSES LUXEMBOURG'S REPLY TO DPQ (75) AND OUTLINES POSITION WE PROPOSE TO TAKE AT DRC MULTILATERAL REVIEW SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 28. LUXEMBOURG FORCE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO MEETS COMMITMENT UNDERTAKEN FOR 1975. COMMITMENT FOR 1976 AND PLANS FOR 1977-80 REMAIN UNCHANGED. PROCUREMENT OF TOW MISSILE SYSTEMS WILL BE COMPLETE EARLY NEXT YEAR. MILITARY MANPOWER STRENGTH WILL REMAIN AT ABOUT 625. DEFENSE EXPENDITURE IN REAL TERMS WILL INCREASE ABOUT 4.9 PERCENT IN 1975 AND 3.7 PERCENT IN 1976; HOWEVER, PERCENT OF GNP FOR DEFENSE WILL REMAIN LOWEST OF ANY NATO COUNTRY EXCEPT ICELAND. OUR PROPOSAL FOR QUESTIONING AT DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION WILL CENTER ON INCREASING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, NEED FOR INCREASED MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT IN FORM OF LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY, AND COMMITMENT OF ADDITIONAL RIFLE COMPANY. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON OUR PROPOSED POSITION BY OCTOBER 27. END SUMMARY.

1. FORCE PLANS. 1975 COMMITMENT IS BEING MET. COMMITMENT FOR 1976 AND PLANS FOR 1977-1980 REMAIN UNCHANGED. LUXEMBOURG PLANS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLEMENT, WITH SOME DELAYS AND CAVEATS, ALL THE FORCE GOALS EXCEPT FOR IL06 (COMMITTING TO NATO THE RIFLE COMPANY CURRENTLY UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND) AND POSSIBLY IL02 (IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL PLANS TO PROVIDE LIMITED LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY).

CURRENTLY LUXEMBOURG REPORTS A POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING IL02 IN 1978-80. PROCUREMENT OF SEVEN TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE BY END 1975, IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETE BY EARLY 1976, WITH SIX SYTEMS OPERATIONAL BY MID 1976. LUXEMBOURG PLANS PROCUREMENT OF 78 TRUCKS IN THE PERIOD 1975-77. OTHER ACTIVE PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDE NBC MATERIEL, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. OPERATIONAL STOCK FOR EXISTING WEAPONS ARE HELD AT MORE THAN 90 STANDARD DAYS EXCEPT FOR TOW MISSILES FOR WHICH NO NATO CONSUMPTION RATES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

2. PERSONNEL. LUXEMBOURG REPORTS THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL STRENGTH (EXCLUDING ABOUT 400 IN GENDARMERIE) WILL REMAIN ABOUT 625 THROUGH END 1980. STRENGTH OF NATO COMMITTEE BATTALION REMAINS AT ABOUT 320.

3. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTION PROVIDES DEFENSE EXPENDITURES INFORMATION THROUGH 1976 ONLY. LUXEMBOURG PLANS A REAL GROWTH (USING DEFLATOR PROVIDED IN ITEM V OF DPQ) IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OF 4.9 PERCENT FROM 1974 TO 1975 AND 3.7 PERCENT FROM 1975 TO 1976. EXPENDITURES FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MUNITIONS, EXPLOSIVES AND MISSILES ARE ONLY 2.4 PERCENT OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN 1975 AND WHILE INCREASING IN 1976 ARE STILL ONLY 3.6 PERCENT. THE PERCENT OF GNP FOR DEFENSE WILL REMAIN AT APPROXIMATELY ONE PERCENT IN 1976, THE LOWEST IN NATO (EXCEPT FOR ICELAND), ALTHOUGH LUXEMBOURG HAS THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA GNP.

4. PROPOSED US POSITION FOR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION. WE PLAN TO CALL LUXEMBOURG'S ATTENTION TO 1975 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE CALLING FOR INCREASED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, ESPECIALLY FOR COUNTRIES WHOSE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES FALL BELOW 4.1 PERCENT OF GNP OR BELOW 150 DOLLARS PER CAPITA. WE WILL SUGGEST LUXEMBOURG EXPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT, PARTICULARLY FOR PROCUREMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY (FORCE GOAL IL02), AND FOR EXPANSION OF ARMED FORCES TO PERMIT MEETING FORCE GOAL IL06. ACTION REQUESTED: BY OCTOBER 27, WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON OUR PROPOSED POSITION FOR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION. STREATOR  
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